



Announces

Important Changes to the Project Inspector Exam Process for 2007

- Special Accommodation allowances are good for four years. The medical doctor's request must be submitted with each exam registration.
- Pre-requisites must be submitted with each exam registration, except "re-tests" for the same classification.
- Letters of Recommendation must not be more than four years old.
- Applicants for Class 3 and Class 4 exams will now use the same Experience Record Forms as used for Class 1 and Class 2 applicants.

Exams will still be based on the 2001 Title 24 codes

All inspectors for school projects under the jurisdiction of DSA must first pass a DSA Project Inspector Examination.

DSA Project Inspector Examination Information and Application Package

Contents:	<u>Page #</u>
Announcements	1
Exam Dates and Application Fee	2
General Information	3
Project Classification Definitions	5
Application Form	6
Application Instructions	7
Class 1 - 4 Experience Record Form	8
Instructions for Completing Experience Record	9
Qualifying Experience Limitations	10
Experience Guidelines	11
Frequently Asked Questions	12

2007 Exam Dates:

Examination Date	Earliest Postmark Date for Filing	Latest Postmark Date For Filing
Wednesday, March 14, 2007	Jan. 19, 2007	Feb. 23, 2007
Wednesday, June 13, 2007	Apr. 18, 2007	May 23, 2007
Wednesday, September 12, 2007	July 18, 2007	Aug. 22, 2007
Wednesday, December 5, 2007	Oct. 10, 2007	Nov. 14, 2007

Exam Application Fee:

The exam application fee is \$350.00 (non-refundable).

Additional application forms are available on our website: <http://www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov>.
For Project Inspector Application and instructions click on "Inspector Program."

DSA Project Inspector Examination

General Information

The Project Inspector examination is designed to determine knowledge in the areas of acceptable construction practice, plan reading, techniques of construction and inspection, as well as an understanding of applicable codes and regulations.

Exam Description

Each examination consists of two Parts; a 'Plan Reading Part' in the morning and a 'Code Part' in the afternoon. The 'Plan Reading Part' of the examination includes questions grouped into three subject areas: Structural, Architectural (which includes Access and Fire & Life Safety), and Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing (MEP). The 'Code Part' of the examination has the same three sections, as well as an Administrative section (which includes inspector duties and responsibilities). To pass either part of the examination applicants must obtain a minimum score in each section.. To become certified applicants must pass both parts of the examination. The minimum scores to pass the exam are given in the grid below:

	Sections			
	Admin	Structural	Architectural	MEP
PLAN PART		60%	60%	60%
CODE PART	60%	60%	60%	60%

DSA may change the minimum scores required to pass at any time without advanced notice.

Exam Duration, Locations, and Notification Dates

Each Part of the exam lasts three hours. There will be 30 minutes allowed prior to the Plan Reading Part to review the drawings provided. Approximately one hour is allowed for lunch. Lunch is **not** provided. Examinations will be held in northern and southern California. Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of acceptance to take the examination, and specific times and locations, at least two weeks before the examination date. Candidates will be notified of results 4 to 6 weeks after the examination date.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL FOR TEST RESULTS. RESULTS WILL NOT BE GIVEN OVER THE PHONE PRIOR TO OFFICIAL POSTING IN THE DSA DATA BASE.

Fees and Transfers

There is a **non-refundable** fee of \$350.00 for each examination date, regardless of the number of exam Parts taken on that date. Applicants who do not qualify to take the exam will **not** receive a refund, but may submit additional information and/or re-apply for a future examination **one time** (within six months) without submitting an additional fee. Applicants who are accepted and are not able to attend the exam for any reason may transfer to a future examination date **one-time** (with two weeks notice), and not pay an additional fee. Within two weeks of the exam, only medical emergencies will warrant an exam date transfer without an additional fee. Personal checks returned for any reason, are subject to a \$30.00 fee.

Exam Qualification and Re-Application

- Applicants who do not qualify for the examination (or who fail the examination) may apply for the Assistant Inspector Program for no additional fee.
- Applicants who fail one Part of the examination need only re-take that Part.
- Applicants who fail one Section in either Part of the exam must re-take that entire Part.
- Applicants who fail one, or both, parts of an examination may re-apply for any subsequent exam date.

Important: Certification does not guarantee that an individual will be approved for any school project. Experience, workload, capability and past performance will be evaluated and considered on each specific project by the DSA field engineer.

Re-Certification

Candidates who pass the examination will be required to re-certify every four years. Re-certification requirements include taking a re-certification class and passing an exam, as well as attending a two-day overview class through the DSA Academy. Details of these requirements are described on our website at <http://www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov>. Click on "Inspector Program" and search for "Inspector Re-Certification Information."

Project Classification:

There are four classifications of construction projects as defined below. All projects are "classified" by DSA during plan review. An individual must hold a certificate of the appropriate class to apply for the position of "Project Inspector" for a specific project. Individuals must be evaluated and approved by the owner, project architect, structural engineer, and DSA for each specific project prior to start of construction. The following classification definitions are also used to categorize the experience stated by applicants in their Experience Record Forms.

Class 1:

- Buildings or additions of 2,000 square feet or greater that utilize materials other than wood-frame shear walls (for example: masonry/concrete shear walls, steel brace frames, concrete, or steel moment-resisting frames) as the primary lateral load-resisting system.
- Substantial structural alterations to the gravity and/or lateral load-resisting system of the building types described above.

Class 2:

- Buildings or additions over 2,000 square feet that utilize wood-frame shear walls as the primary lateral load-resisting system. Projects may be single or multi-level. The project may contain incidental masonry, concrete and/or structural steel construction (e.g. gravity load carrying columns and beams). Buildings may have isolated exceptions to the lateral load-resisting system, such as a steel brace frame at one location in the structure.
- Buildings or additions of less than 2,000 square feet in floor area that have primary lateral load-resisting systems utilizing concrete, masonry or steel construction. A single-story masonry building with a regular configuration (see C.B.C. Sec. 1629A.5.2), a floor area of less than 7,000 square feet, and a wood-frame roof structure *may* be considered to be a Class 2 structure.
- Two-story relocatable buildings (on-site construction) utilizing shop-fabricated building frames.
- Alteration, modernization, and reconstruction projects that exceed the limitations of the Class 3 scope of work, but do not include substantial alterations to structural systems of concrete, steel or masonry.
- Non-building structures that exceed the limitations of the Class 3 scope of work (signs, poles, bleachers, walls, fences, retaining walls, etc.).

Class 3:

- Buildings or additions of wood-frame, single-story construction, with conventional (spread footing) concrete foundations and a total floor area less than 2,000 square feet. Structures must utilize wood-frame shear walls as the primary lateral load-resisting system. The project may include isolated steel or concrete elements (e.g. steel or concrete columns).
- Structural alteration projects limited to wood-frame, single-story construction. When deemed appropriate by DSA, alterations to (or addition of) isolated steel, masonry or concrete elements may be included in Class 3 projects. Alteration projects involving significant changes to the lateral load-resisting system may be classified as Class 2 projects.
- Alteration and modernization projects that are primarily non-structural, such as electrical, mechanical, plumbing, disabled access features, and site improvement work.
- Most non-building structures such as signs, poles, bleachers, walls, fences, retaining walls, etc.

Class 4:

- Site installation of pre-manufactured, single-story, single-story relocatable buildings.

See IR A-7 for a complete definition of Project Classifications

Inspectors who pass the Class 1 examination are qualified to apply for any project. Class 2 inspectors may apply for Class 2, 3, or 4 projects. Class 3 inspectors may apply for Class 3 or 4 projects. Class 4 inspectors may only inspect Class 4 projects.

**PROJECT INSPECTOR EXAMINATION APPLICATION****PREFERRED EXAMINATION DATE (Check one):**

Examination Date	<u>Earliest</u> Postmark Date for Filing	<u>Latest</u> Postmark Date For Filing
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, March 14, 2007	<u>Jan. 19, 2007</u>	<u>Feb. 23, 2007</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, June 13, 2007	<u>Apr. 18, 2007</u>	<u>May 23, 2007</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, September 12, 2007	<u>July 18, 2007</u>	<u>Aug. 22, 2007</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, December 05, 2007	<u>Oct. 10, 2007</u>	<u>Nov. 14, 2007</u>

Office Use Only
ID# _____
CK# _____
\$ _____

Which exam are you applying for?

☐ Class 1☐ Class 2☐ Class 3☐ Class 4

Which part are you applying for?

☐ Both☐ Part 1 (Plan Reading)☐ Part 2 (Code Knowledge)

Exam Location Preference:

☐ Northern California☐ Southern California**FEES: \$350.00 (non-refundable)**

Please make checks or money orders (no credit cards) payable to:

Division of the State Architect

Mail application and fee to: DSA, 1102 Q Street, Suite 5100, Sacramento, CA 95814

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____

Last Name

First Name

MI

Address: _____ Public Contact Phone #: (____) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Alternate Phone #: (____) _____

County: _____ e-mail address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES OR SPECIAL REQUESTS: If you have a disability or special need that restricts your ability to take a test under standard conditions you may request special testing arrangements. **The request must accompany every application, including "re-tests"**. Clarification of both the disability and the need for special accommodations by a licensed medical doctor is required.

PREREQUISITES: A copy of one prerequisite certificate, license or diploma (see list on reverse) and/or inspector certifications already held, must be included with this application.

Description: _____ Certificate/License #: _____

EDUCATION: _____

School/College/University

Degree/Certificate

Date Graduated

See the reverse side of this application form for additional important information

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am the person indicated above, that I meet all the requirements to take this examination, that I have read and understood both sides of this applications form and that all information given is true and complete. I understand that any false statement will be cause for voiding this application and any subsequent certification. I further certify that I will not reveal the contents of the examination to anyone and affirm that I will abide by the rules of the examination. I understand that upon certification, my name and phone number will be available to the public.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Office Use Only
A _____
P _____
E _____

PROJECT INSPECTOR EXAMINATION APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

➤ The following four items must be submitted to apply for the examination:

1. **Application:** Fill out the application (do not use old applications for previous exams. Note that applicants must be, per Title 24, at least 25 years old to qualify for the examination).
2. **Fee:** \$350.00 non-refundable (checks or money orders only, credit cards are not accepted).
3. **Prerequisite:** One of the following prerequisites is required in addition to the experience requirements. Send a copy of any one of the following prerequisites. Please do not send any certificates that are not listed below.
 - a) **Certification of the International Code Council (ICC)** as a UBC or IBC Building Inspector.
 - b) **Certification of the American Construction Inspectors Association** as a Registered Construction Inspector, Division II (Building).
 - c) **Certification of the Division of the State Architect** as a Relocatable Building Inspector – In-plant (or prior approval as a Project Inspector on a California hospital or public school project).
 - d) **A degree in architecture or engineering** from an accredited college or university (submit copies of transcripts and a description of technical classes for foreign colleges or universities only).
 - e) **California licensed architect or California registered professional engineer** (civil or structural).
 - f) **California State licensed General Building Contractor**. License must be current and active. Applicant must be the "Qualifying Partner" if the license pertains to a partnership.
 - g) **Letters of recommendation from two California licensed architects and/or registered structural engineers**. A sample form letter is available on the DSA website: at www.dsa.ca.gov, click on "Inspector Program". Letters of recommendation are only valid for four years.
 - h) **Proof of employment by the State of California as a building construction inspector**.
 - i) **Certification as an Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) Class A or Class B Inspector**.

4. Experience Record Forms: (Read all instructions carefully before filling out Experience Record Forms). The experience requirements are the most important part of your application. Thirty-six (36) months of qualifying experience is required. DSA certified Project Inspectors should refer to FAQ #8 on page 13 for special experience requirement options. Experience must be gained in the classification of construction appropriate to the examination class for which you are applying (except for prior school Project Inspector experience, see page 13). Descriptions of project classifications are on page 5. The maximum amount of experience that qualifies towards the exam is limited for various experience categories (see **Qualifying Experience Limitations** on page 10). The intent is to require each applicant to have a wide variety of construction experience to qualify. For example, 3 years of special inspection experience will only count for up to 12 months towards Class 1 or 2 exam qualification. Therefore, it is not necessary to document more than 12 months of special inspection experience on your Experience Record Forms unless you are applying for the Class 3 or 4 exams. See **Instructions for Completing Experience Record Forms** on page 9.

➤ Other Useful Information

Keep a copy of your complete application package. You may need to refer to your package to answer questions that DSA might have during the review of your application. DSA will not provide copies of your application package or experience records to you after they are submitted.

Exam Schedule: The examination day is divided approximately as follows:

Check-in	7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Review plans prior to Part 1	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Part 1 (Plan Reading)	9:00 a.m. – noon
Lunch (not provided)	noon – 1:00 p.m.
Check-in for Part 2	12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Part 2 (Code Knowledge)	1:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Experience Record Form

Qualifying experience must be submitted on a separate Experience Record Form for each project.
Resumes are not accepted. See back for directions on filling out this form

1) Experience Record Form # _____ (Number each form for easy reference, e.g. 1, 2, 3):

2) Project Name: _____

Project Location (City/State): _____

Employer: _____ Phone # _____

Address of Employer: _____

3) DSA File Number and Application Number (if applicable): _____

4) My duties on this project commenced on _____ and ended on _____.
date (mm/yy) date (mm/yy)

5) During this time period _____% of my total work time was spent on this project.

Project Description (Check all that apply and provide area and % of time spent, on each aspect)

	<input type="checkbox"/> New Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Addition	<input type="checkbox"/> Relocatable	<input type="checkbox"/> Alterations	
Sq. Ft.					(Including seismic upgrades, fire repairs, and rebuilds. Describe below.)
% of time					

Project Cost: \$ _____

Type of building (for new construction or additions only):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single family (or duplex) residential | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-family residential | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Bldgs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School (under DSA jurisdiction) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Bldgs | <input type="checkbox"/> Military Bldgs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other structures: _____ | | |

Primary lateral load-resisting system (for new construction and additions only):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plywood shear wall | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete or masonry shear wall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete or steel moment or braced frame | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

6) Duties and Responsibilities: (Please check one. See page 12 of instructions.)

Construction

- ☐ General Superintendent in charge of all aspects of construction
- ☐ Tradesman – CHECK ONE: ☐ Foreman ☐ Journeyman ☐ Apprentice
- INDICATE TRADE: ☐ Carpenter ☐ Concrete ☐ Steel ☐ Mechanical or Plumbing
- ☐ Electrical ☐ Other (describe) _____

Inspection

- ☐ Special Inspector (describe scope of work inspected below)
- ☐ Assistant School Inspector (describe scope of work below)
- ☐ Non-DSA Building Inspector (e.g. local building department inspections etc. – describe below)
- ☐ DSA Project Inspector (personally inspecting all aspects of the work on a continuous basis)
- ☐ OSHPD IOR (personally inspecting all aspects of the work on a continuous basis)

Other

- ☐ Architectural or Engineering Design (Calif. licensed architect, or structural or civil engineer - describe below)
- ☐ Construction Manager/Administrator (describe duties and responsibilities in detail below)
- ☐ Other (describe in detail below): _____

Describe your duties and/or provide additional information: _____

(Use back or attach additional sheet if more space is needed)

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information I have entered on this Experience Record Form is true and complete. I further understand that any false, incomplete, or incorrect statements may be cause for voiding this application and any subsequent certification. I authorize the employers identified on this application to release to DSA any requested information.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED
-----------------------	-------------

Instructions for Completing Experience Record Forms

- See **Qualifying Experience Limitations** and **Experience Guidelines** (pages 10, 11 & 13) for additional important information.
 - **Only experience submitted on Experience Record Forms will be evaluated. Resumes are not acceptable in lieu of Experience Record Forms.**
1. **Experience Record Form #.** Use a separate Experience Record Form for each project. Do not group different projects with the same employer on the same form. Number each form sequentially. The first form should be your most recent project. For large projects that involve buildings of different types, you may elect to split the projects up into "subprojects" in order to describe experience clearly. To record different types of duties and/or different types of construction that occurred on the same project use separate Experience Record Forms labeled 1a, 1b, etc.
 2. **Project name, location, employer, etc.** If you were self-employed, use the name of the entity you contracted with as the "Employer." Every effort must be made to obtain all information; DSA reserves the right to disallow experience which is not verifiable or is incompletely documented.
 3. **DSA file and application number.** To receive credit for school projects the DSA file and application numbers are required. **Credit will only be given for your official capacity on the project; as approved by the DSA Field Engineer.** Informal assignments or duties do not receive credit. To receive credit for hospital projects, OSHPD numbers must be reported in this space. Again, you will only be given credit for your official capacity on the project.
 4. **Start/end dates.** Report start/end dates for your involvement in the actual construction time for the project to the nearest month.
 5. **Percentage of time spent on project.** Generally, experience will be obtained at the rate of 40 hours per week. Extra time will not be credited for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week. In many cases some of the time spent on a particular project will not result in productive qualifying experience; this is understood and acceptable. However, if a project is shut down for more than two weeks, is part time, or involves significant (more than 10%) of the time spent on 'non-qualifying' duties, you must enter the percentage of your time spent on 'qualifying' duties only. If you divide a project into "subprojects" this space is used to report the percentage of your time spent on each part of the total project. **The percentage of time indicated on all Experience Record Forms must not exceed 100% during any time period.**
 6. **Duties and responsibilities.** Check only one box. If you served in more than one capacity on a project submit separate Experience Record Forms for each type of experience. Attachments may be required to describe your responsibilities clearly for certain categories. See page 11 for descriptions of the duties and responsibilities for each category. Check "Other" if your duties and responsibilities do not match any of the categories described.

Choosing Projects for Your Experience Record:

Choose projects that are relevant to the class of exam for which you are applying. Experience on alterations, or seismic upgrade projects, is generally relevant to the Class 3 exam, not the Class 1 or 2, even if done on Class 1 type buildings.

Choose projects that reflect a variety of experience. You must have a broad range of construction experience to qualify for the exam. Most types of experience are limited as explained in the **Qualifying Experience Limitations** (see page 10). If you were an electrician for ten years you need not document all ten years of electrician experience if you are applying for the Class 1 or 2 exam because only 12 months will count (there is no limit on the amount of electrician experience if you are applying for the Class 3 or 4 exam). Choose projects that reflect your experience in other categories for the remainder of your experience.

Choose projects where your responsibilities included actual "hands-on" construction experience. Estimating, obtaining permits, and drafting do not qualify as experience towards the exam.

Qualifying Experience Limitations

A total of three years (36 months) of qualifying experience is required. The maximum number of months for common types of construction experience is limited, as shown in the table below. (For example: A carpenter who has worked for 3 years on *new (ground-up) commercial building projects* may only count 12 months of carpentry experience towards the Class 2 exam, the other 24 months of experience must be gained in other categories.)

Most qualifying experience will fit into one of the categories shown below. If you have experience of a type that is not shown, that you feel may be qualifying, be sure to describe your duties in detail on the Experience Record Form(s).

Experience must be gained on projects fitting the description of the examination class for which you are applying. See "Experience Guidelines" on the next page for definitions of Experience Categories and other important rules and exceptions.

Qualifying Experience Grid – This table indicates the maximum number of months that may apply toward exam eligibility

Exam Class	Construction			Inspection		Other	
	General Superintendent	Tradesman	Special Inspector	Assistant School Inspector ²	Non-DSA ^{1,2} Building Inspector	Licensed Architect or Engineer	Construction Manager/Administrator ²
1	No limit	12	12	12 ³	12 ⁴	No limit	12
2	No limit	12	12	24 ³	12 ⁴	No limit	12
3	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	24
4⁵	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	24

Footnotes:

1. See FAQ #8 on page **13** for an alternative way of evaluating project experience.
2. Describe specific day to day duties in detail. Include an average percentage of time spent on each aspect of your duties.
3. Subject to the recommendation of your DSA field engineer; otherwise counts as Class 3 experience only.
4. OSHPD Class A or B Inspector of Record (IOR) experience is accepted without limit.
5. Two months credit will be given for each class completed through the DSA Academy, up to a maximum of 12 months. Please see www.dsa.ca.gov/academy (select Training Classes). Submit evidence of class completion with your application.

Experience Guidelines

General Information

Experience on residential construction only counts towards the Class 3 exam (not the Class 1 or 2).

Building construction experience gained outside of the United States may, at DSA's discretion, be credited to a maximum of 12 months. This limitation applies to the total of all foreign experience.

These guidelines may not be appropriate to every situation. Experience that is not described below will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Applicants will be evaluated based solely on the written information submitted on their Experience Record Form(s). Verification of duties or employment may be requested at the sole discretion of DSA.

Generally, non-building experience (bridges, dams, mechanical plant installations, roads, railways, etc.) is not acceptable. Certain types of non-building experience may be accepted as a supplement to building experience on a case by case basis. Experience not related to building construction (for example, electrical work on automobiles) would not qualify.

Description of Duties and Responsibilities

Construction:

General Superintendent. Supervision of all aspects of the construction and coordination of all crews and/or subcontractors. The general superintendent is the on-site "at risk" person in charge of the entire construction project. He or she is intimately familiar with the plans and specifications and provides quality assurance for the entire project. Administrative duties such as processing change order requests are secondary to the primary duties of the general superintendent (see Construction Manager/Administrator below).

Tradesman. Physically performing the work of carpentry, concrete, steel, electrical, mechanical, or plumbing on buildings. Painting, paving, carpet-laying, and other 'non-safety related' construction experience do not qualify.

Inspection:

Special Inspector. Welding, masonry, and other types of code required special inspection work.

Assistant School Inspector. You must be approved by DSA to be the assistant inspector on a school project. The experience gained by the assistant may vary widely. Generally, experience gained as an assistant will qualify towards the Class 3 examination. More responsible/extensive experience may qualify towards the Class 2 exam while less responsible/extensive experience may only qualify for the Class 4 exam. Verification of responsibilities by your DSA field engineer may be required.

Non-DSA Building Inspector. Residential inspections may qualify towards the Class 3 or 4 examination; commercial, public, and institutional building inspections may qualify towards the Class 1 or Class 2 exam on a case-by-case basis. Plan review or other non-inspection related duties do not qualify. Applicants will need to specify the percentage of time spent inspecting various types of construction and provide detailed information on the types of inspections performed as well as the types of buildings inspected.

OSHPD IOR. Approved as the Inspector of Record (IOR) by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) on hospital projects.

DSA Project Inspector. Approved by DSA as the project inspector for an entire project. See FAQ #8 on page 13 for special options for minimum experience required.

Other:

Architectural or Engineering Design. Building design experience only counts for California licensed Architects, Registered Structural Engineers, or Registered Civil Engineers.

Construction Manager/Administrator. Administrative duties related to organizing, planning and coordinating a construction project. A Construction Manager (CM) generally cannot claim experience in categories that are the responsibility of others.

DSA Project Inspector Examination

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What should I bring to the exam?

Answer: You should bring the reference books that you would bring to the construction site to perform your inspections. The following is a list of things you may need; it is not meant to be an exhaustive list, nor will all reference books be of value during the exam:

What you must bring

- Your Site Admittance Form
- Your Picture Identification
- #2 Pencils and erasers

What you may bring

- A simple calculator (non-printing, self-contained, silent. Palm top computers are not allowed)
- The 2001 version of Title 24, Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 12
- West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau (WCLIB) Lumber Grading Rules
- American Welding Society (AWS) D1.1, Structural Welding Code
- American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC), Steel Construction Manual
- ASTM reports for common construction materials and practices
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13, 14, 17, 17-A, 24 and 72
- All other reference books that you would bring to the jobsite to perform inspections on a project. All commercially published, bound reference books are permitted. Please be aware that you may not have time to look up every question.

What you should not bring

- Do not bring seminar or class handouts of any type (including DSA seminar binders).
- Do not bring the DSA "IR manual" or any other material downloaded from any website.
- Do not bring ring bound notebooks (ring bound codebooks are allowed), spiral bound books, or loose paper of any kind.
- Do not bring photocopies of any reference books.
- Do not insert any additional pages into your codebooks or other reference books.
- Do not bring any blank paper, including Post-It ® notes.

2. How should I study for the exam?

Answer: The exam is meant to test for practical construction experience as well as knowledge of the code and the ability to read and interpret drawings. It is difficult for a person with no practical field construction experience to learn the detailed construction knowledge necessary to pass the exam from studying books or taking classes. The best teacher is actual experience, either performing construction or assisting another inspector on a large job. Of course, studying the codes and other reference books mentioned in question 1 above is also recommended. Some further resources that may be beneficial include:

- Classes which may be available at community colleges.
- Seminars provided by the American Construction Inspector's Association (ACIA), aimed at school inspection as well as more general inspection topics.
- ACIA monthly meetings where inspectors can share their ideas and experiences.

3. Does DSA provide training for prospective inspectors?

Answer: DSA has developed an Academy of classes to educate project inspectors on the rules, regulations, and standards that apply to the inspection of schools. The DSA Project Inspector Overview Class is mandatory for all DSA project inspectors and assistant inspectors, as part of the re-certification process.

DSA Project Inspector Examination Frequently Asked Questions

4. If I apply for the Class 1 test but do not qualify, can I change my application to the Class 2 or Class 3 test?

Answer: Yes. No additional fee is required.

5. If I take the Class 1 exam and miss passing by a small margin, will I be certified as a Class 2 (or Class 3) inspector?

Answer: No, you must decide which exam you want to apply for and pass it. Even if you miss the passing score by only one point you will have to retest, and submit another application fee.

6. What are the cost and cancellation policies?

Answer: The cost is \$350.00 payable at the time you submit your application.

- No refunds will be made even if an applicant is not permitted to take the examination due to age, prerequisite, or experience. Read the instructions carefully before sending in your application and fee.
- Applicants who do not qualify to take the exam may submit additional information and re-apply for a future examination without submitting an additional fee. Applicants who still do not qualify will have to submit a new application fee to re-apply again.
- Applicants who do not qualify for the examination but do qualify for the assistant inspector program may apply for the assistant inspector program for no additional fee.
- With a one week notice to DSA, applicants who are accepted for an exam, but are not able to attend for any reason will receive a one-time transfer to a future examination. No refunds are available for cancellations.

7. How do I get approved to do in-plant inspection of relocatable buildings?

Answer: Relocatable Building Inspector In-Plant (RBIP) Certificates are issued to individuals who pass the RBIP test. The RBIP test is separate from the project inspector tests. The RBIP test is given on an individual, as needed basis. Contact the Special Inspector Coordinator at (916)324-6404 for an application and additional information on this program. Class 1 inspectors qualify to apply for "in-plant" inspection work and do not need an RBIP certificate.

8. I am already a DSA certified Project Inspector. How can I upgrade to a higher class of certification?

Answer: You may qualify for the exam class **one step higher** than your current certification level if you meet any of the special experience requirement options in the table below. Attendance through the DSA Academy Project Inspector Overview Class is mandatory prior to an inspector class upgrade.

SPECIAL EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT OPTIONS FOR DSA PROJECT INSPECTOR UPGRADES				
	CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3	CLASS 4
OPTION #1 ¹	36 months of combined construction / inspection ² experience (construction in the appropriate class; inspection ² in the next lower class) ¹			
OPTION #2	24 months of inspection ² experience in next lower class			
OPTION #3	48 months of project inspector experience on class 3 projects			

Footnotes: 1: See table on page 10 for qualifying experience. You may also include DSA project inspector experience in this option.

2: DSA approved project inspector experience on the entire project; meeting the class description one step lower than the exam class applied for.

DSA Project Inspector Examination

Frequently Asked Questions

9. What kind of experience do I need to qualify for each class of examination?

Answer: Experience requirements are described in detail in this application package.

10. My construction experience doesn't fit into any of the categories; how do I report it?

Answer: Mark "other" and describe your experience in the space provided at the bottom of the Experience Record Form. You may attach additional pages if there isn't enough space.

11. I received a letter stating that additional information is required to qualify; what should I do?

Answer: The boxes that are marked on your letter explain what additional information is required. Most applications are returned for further detail on the applicant's experience. The following suggestions may help to clarify your experience:

- Fill out the Experience Record Form with detailed information on your experience on a project-by-project basis; attach additional pages as required (resumes are not acceptable).
- Include pertinent information such as start and finish dates for each project and the percentage of time spent on separate tasks such as 'inspection' versus 'construction management'.
- Over-lapping projects will only count once (if you did ten different projects over a three-month time frame you will be credited with three months of experience, not thirty).
- Emphasize experience in varying aspects of building construction, additional years of experience (beyond the maximum limits shown in the table on page **10**) are not considered qualifying. For example, a carpenter with 20 years of experience will not qualify for the Class 1 exam unless he has experience in other aspects of construction (Steel, electrical, special inspections, etc.). The Project Inspector on even a small school project must have knowledge in many facets of construction.
- Emphasize your construction experience. Practical field construction experience is generally considered to be more important than education in code and plan reading skills.
- DSA realizes that each applicant's experience and background are unique. If you have experience that is not addressed in the guidelines, or other special circumstances, this will be considered.

12. I failed the "plan reading" part of the exam and passed the "code" part. Can I re-apply for the "plan reading" part only?

Answer: Yes, but the full fee is required with the application.

13. I failed the "plan reading" part of the Class 1 exam and passed the "code" part. Can I take only the "plan reading" part of the Class 2 exam or do I have to take both parts of the Class 2 exam?

Answer: You must take both parts of an exam class to receive a certificate even if you already passed one part of a more difficult exam.

14. I passed all but one Section of the test. Can I just re-take that one Section?

Answer: No, you must re-apply and take the entire Part over again. If you only missed one (or more) Section(s) in one Part then you only need to retake that Part.

DSA Project Inspector Examination

Frequently Asked Questions

15. Do I have to be certified to serve as an inspector?

Answer: Generally, yes. However, DSA has instituted an assistant inspector program to allow uncertified individuals to assist Project Inspectors under certain conditions. An application must be filed with the DSA headquarters office. If accepted, the individual's name and phone number will be posted on the DSA web site as an acceptable candidate for assistant inspector work. (Form DSA-5A must then be submitted to the DSA regional office describing the specific duties to be performed by the assistant inspector for each project). This program will be discontinued on 7/31/2008. Further information is provided in IR A-12 and on the DSA website at <http://www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov> under "Inspector Program."

Important:

Certification does not guarantee that an individual will be approved for any school project. Experience, workload and past performance will be evaluated and considered on a case-by-case basis by the DSA field engineer.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **APPLICANTS: Mail your Exam Application to DSA Headquarters at 1102 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Suite 5100**

CONTACTS:

Program Manager: John Baca
(916) 324-1282

Program Lead: Ronna Taylor
(916) 445-0064

Program Analyst: Erika Zepeda
(916) 323-5971

Program Technician: Jacqueline Kelley
(916) 324-6404